CLAIMS

1.   Apparatus for generating a user profile for use in an information management system, the user profile comprising interests deemed to be relevant to a user, the apparatus comprising:

classification means for classifying a user as a type of entity;

a mapping store comprising data indicative of mappings between entity type and interests;

a template store comprising one or more templates each comprising a plurality of interests;

identifying means in operative association with the mapping store and the classification means and arranged, in use,

to identify data indicative of interests relevant to a user in accordance with classification of the user;

to retrieve a template from the template store; and

to generate a user profile from the retrieved template in accordance with the identified interests.

2.   Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identifying means is arranged to filter the retrieved template in accordance with the identified interests, thereby generating the said user profile.

3.   Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the template store has access to a plurality of versions of each interest, each version corresponding to an entity type, and the identifying means is further arranged to filter interests within the retrieved template in dependence on the entity type.

4.   Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identifying means is arranged to request a template corresponding to the identified interests, so that the template retrieved in response to the request is the generated user profile.

5.   Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein an interest is characterised by a plurality of sets of subject-related data and/or attributes classifying the interest.

6.   Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising means for characterising an interest for loading onto a template, said characterising means comprising means for retrieving subject-related data from information accessed by one or more users.

5

7.   Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, including means arranged to receive data indicative of relationships between entity types, and to modify interests in the mapping store in dependence on the received data.

10   8.   Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the classification means is in operative association with a data structure, elements of which are representative of entity type.

9.   Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the data structure is representative of an
15   organisation, and entity type is representative of role within the organisation.

10.   A method of generating a user profile for use in an information management system, the user profile comprising interests deemed to be relevant to a user, the method comprising the steps of:
20   classifying a user as a type of entity;
           accessing mappings between entity type and interests in order to identify interests corresponding to the classified user;
           retrieving a template from a template store, the template store comprising one or more templates each comprising a plurality of interests;
25   generating a user profile from the retrieved template in accordance with the identified interests.

11.   A user profile for use by one or more information management means in retrieval of information, the profile comprising
30   first data identifying a plurality of interests, and comprising, for each interest, subject-related terms related to the said interest and subject-related terms un-related to the said interest,
           second data identifying attributes characterising an interest, the second data being used by the information management means to filter information identified as being
35   relevant to the first data.

12.   A user profile according to claim 11, wherein an item of the subject-related data is weighted to indicate a level of relevance of the subject-related data to a respective interest.

5

13.   A user profile according to claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the second data includes data describing the priority of the first data to the user.

14.   A user profile according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the second data
10   includes data describing duration of relevance of the first data to the user

15.   A user profile according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the second data includes data indicative of an expertise level of the user in respect of the first data

15   16.   A user profile according to any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein the second data includes preference data describing preferences of the user in respect of the first data

17.   A user profile according to claim 16, wherein the preference data identifies at least one of: to whom the first data is relevant; to a place at which the first data is relevant
20   and/or a time at which the first data is relevant.

18.   A user profile according to any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein the second data includes data indicative of the extent to which the first data should be made available to other users.

25